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**REQUEST
FOR**

**CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

To Commissioner For Patents

Please enter the following submission and withdraw the finality of the proceeding office action or withdraw any pending appeal and reopen prosecution before the Examiner.

Application Number	09/548,734
Filing Date	APRIL 13, 2000
First Named Inventor	HUGO J. STRUBBE
Group Art Unit	2643
Examiner Name	GEORGE ENG
Attorney Docket Number	US000103

This is an RCE under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application (which is made prior to: payment of issue fee; abandonment; notice of appeal to the CAFC; or commencement of civil action under 35 U.S.C. 145 or 146.)

1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

a. ☒ Previously submitted

i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on February 23, 2004

(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).

ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on

iii. ☐ Other _____

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b. ☐ Enclosed

i. ☐ Preliminary Amendment

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement

iv. ☐ Other _____ (may not be a brief)

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2. **Miscellaneous**

a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (May not exceed 3 months; Fee required per 37 C.F.R. § 1.117(i))

b. ☐ Other _____

3. **Fees**

a. ☒ The Commissioner For Patents is hereby authorized to charge all required fees except the issue fee or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 14-1270

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print Type)	GREGORY L. THORNE	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	39,398
Signature	<i>Gregory L. Thorne</i>	Date	April 8, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Alexandria, VA 22313, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office tel# : _____ on the date below:

Name (Print Type)	NOEMI CHAPA		
Signature	<i>Noemi Chapa</i>	Date	4/8/04